

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An image input apparatus comprising:

a photoelectric conversion unit adapted to acquire image information of an object from a plurality of divided areas and to separately output signals from each of a plurality of ~~output units corresponding to respective ones of the areas~~ channels, wherein each of the ~~areas~~ channels ~~includes an~~ include a plurality of effective ~~pixel~~ pixels and a plurality of non-image ~~pixel~~ pixels; and

a correcting unit adapted to correct offset components contained in the signals output from each of the ~~output units~~ channels during a period of acquiring the image information, in accordance with a first signal output from the plurality of effective pixels during a period other than the image information acquiring, a second signal output from the plurality of non-image pixels during the period other than the image information acquiring, and a third signal output from the plurality of non-image pixels during the period of acquiring image information,

wherein said correcting unit includes:

a subtracting unit adapted to subtract the offset components from the

signals output from the plurality of ~~areas~~ channels of said photoelectric conversion unit during the period of acquiring the image information;

a calculating unit adapted to calculate the fluctuation of the offset components in accordance with the second and third signals; and

an adjusting unit adapted to adjust the offset components to be subtracted by said subtracting unit, in accordance with an output signal from said calculating unit.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An image input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the signals from the plurality of ~~areas~~ channels are output separately to right and left directions respectively.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An image input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the offset components include a level difference of the signals between the ~~areas output from the plurality of divided areas~~ channels.

Claim 5. (Canceled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) An image input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first, second, and third signals are obtained through addition of signals of the ~~areas~~ channels and averaging thereof.

Claims 7 and 8. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) An image input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein adjusting of the offset components by said adjusting unit is executed during a period other than the image information acquiring.

Claims 10 – 44. (Canceled)